

UNAPPROVED

## **UTAH STATE LIBRARY ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, December 10, 2021

10:00 A.M. to 11:50 A.M.

Electronic Meeting

### **State Library Board Attendees:**

Marguerite Mower, Chair; Lisa Ord; Sara Wiebke; Dianne Aldrich; Diane Carter; Rebekah Cummings; Jason Cornelius

### **Utah State Library (USL) Staff:**

Chaundra Johnson, State Librarian/Division Director; Merrily Cannon, Library Development Program Manager; Lisa Nelson, Blind and Disabled Program Manager; Marie Erickson, Library Resources Program Manager; Heidi Fendrick, State Data Coordinator; Rachel Cook, Grants Coordinator; Darci Card, Online Library Coordinator/ Web Manager; Hannah Jones, Resource Acquisitions Technician/Book Buzz Coordinator; Faye Fischer, Contracts & Grant Analyst; Amanda Rock, Administrative Assistant

### **Guests:**

Bryan Nalder, Assistant Attorney General

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Ms. Mower, followed by the roll call. Ms. Mower read the OPMA Electronic Meeting Determination, which allows an electronic meeting to take place without an anchor location.

### **Board meeting minutes for September 24, 2021: (Action)**

Ms. Weibke moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cummings; all voted in the affirmative.

### **Open Meetings Training:**

Mr. Nalder conducted the annual training on the Open and Public Meetings Act. He suggested implementing a roll call vote to capture every board member's vote.

### **New Book Buzz platform:**

Ms. Card demonstrated the new platform for the Book Buzz program, which lends sets of books to book groups and other organizations.

### **Book/Materials challenges/USL policy:**

Ms. Johnson addressed the increase in book challenges, both locally and nationally. Governor Cox said books should be appropriate for grade levels, but he does not support removing books from school/public libraries. She shared Governor Cox's statements on the challenges:

*"We really should pump the brakes on the idea of getting rid of books." Any student of history knows banning books doesn't work well".*

## UNAPPROVED

She said the Governor's remarks make it easier for our division to respond to press inquiries, stating that "we stand behind what Governor Cox said in his November 18th press conference."

The statement on book challenges from Utah Library Association (ULA), Utah Education Association (UEA), and Utah Educational Library Media Association (UELMA) was shared with the board members.

Ms. Johnson instructed board members to reach out to her if contacted by the press.

### **Databases on Utah's Online Public Library: (Action)**

Ms. Erickson stated the USL would like to consider ending the service of providing a "flagship" database (EBSCO) through public libraries. The usage on this database has been low, and most residents would be able to access the database through UEN and UALC. She said the money spent (almost \$200K) on the database could be used to fund other projects.

Ms. Ord moved to consider moving from EBSCO. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cummings. Ms. Aldrich abstained from the vote; all others voted in the affirmative.

### **LSTA & ARPA funding update:**

Ms. Cook updated the board on grants awarded to libraries.

### **Director Update:**

Ms. Johnson shared that Ms. Cannon, the Library Development interim manager, was hired as the Program Manager.

She also shared that Mendon City Public Library has been approved for initial certification. They are now eligible for state and federal funding.

USL has three budget requests for the Governor's Fiscal Year 2023 budget:

1. 100k ongoing to continue funding the Youth Services position in development
2. 100k ongoing to continue funding the Library Tech and Innovation position in development
3. 250K ongoing increase to CLEF, the funds passed through to certified public libraries in the state

She explained the Youth Services and Tech coordinator positions have been funded by one time money in the budget that is dwindling due to cumulative budget imbalances. She assured the board the positions won't be eliminated if the funding isn't awarded, but "we would need to take a hard look at our budget and see where we can adjust so that we can maintain the positions."

Ms. Johnson said the governor released his budget and all three of our asks were included, with a small change. She stated that, "The 100k for the Youth Services position and Tech Coordinator position were changed to one time funding, which isn't what we hoped for, but the big win was that the 250K for CLEF was included for ongoing funding! That is very exciting."

This budget now needs to be approved by the legislature. Ms. Johnson will be sending out an email to the library community and the library board sharing our asks and what can be done to support our requests.

### **Dashboard report:**

Instead of reporting on the statistics available on our website, Ms. Fendrick shared information from the State Data Conference she attended this week.

UNAPPROVED

## **Staff Reports:**

### **Library Resources**

Ms. Erickson shared that they are in the process of implementing OpenAthens, our new authentication platform. She requested everyone register their library cards and give her feedback on the process.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_prqt6Z4pGb9In5nlAHUPBlt4Pj8WvDP/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_prqt6Z4pGb9In5nlAHUPBlt4Pj8WvDP/view)

The contract for the Utah Newspapers database was renewed. Ms. Erickson is working on a new RFP for an online learning platform, which will be a joint effort between USL and the Department of Workforce Services, with the divisions splitting the cost.

Michelle Nealey was hired to move our webinars from Adobe Connect to Niche Academy. She will be with us through the end of May.

### **Blind and Disabled Program**

Ms. Nelson shared that she hired a part time audio production manager to oversee the recording program. This person will work with our volunteer narrators and locally produced audio files.

She also stated that Utah is one of two libraries piloting a new audio playback machine for the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). She said it's a small pilot of 40 people, and will include patrons from Utah, Alaska, and Wyoming.

### **Library Development Program**

Ms. Cannon shared that Alan Ly has been hired as the Technology & Innovation Coordinator. A new Youth Services Consultant will be hired soon.

Three in-person summer reading trainings were offered. Summer reading manuals were distributed to libraries, and libraries are ordering promotional materials.

The annual directors' summit was held on October 15. There were about 50 directors in attendance and ten USL employees. The feedback was positive. Most people said that the content helped and supported them in their roles as library directors.

Ms. Cook closed out the grants, and is now working on the federal end of year report. Ms. Cook also calculated CLEF and is sending out the funds. Ms. Fendrick attended the State Data Coordinator conference and the Utah State Data Center Conference. She is wrapping up the annual statistical survey for city libraries and is preparing the survey for the county libraries. Ms. Cannon shared that she is weeding the training archive in preparation to the move to Niche Academy. She has also been working with Utah Library Association and their Year of Learning, which focuses on training on equity, diversion, and inclusion (EDI) topics.

### **Schedule meeting dates for 2022:**

The proposed meeting dates of June 24, September 23, and December 9 were agreed upon.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

UNAPPROVED